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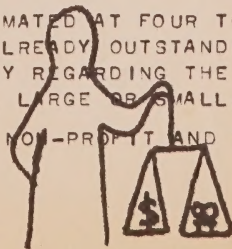
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Lesbian Defense Fund







# Lesbian Defense Fund



WRITE : L.D.F., P.O. Box 4, ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT, 05452 : 802-862-9046

April 8, 1977

Mary Rogers

MCC

131 Cambridge St

Boston, Mass 02114

Dear Mary:

Here are samples of the brochures we distribute.  
We'll talk very soon about ways to work together.  
Thank you for your help + encouragement over  
the phone. See you soon -

Sincerely,

Joyce Cheney



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<https://archive.org/details/2174.13.15>



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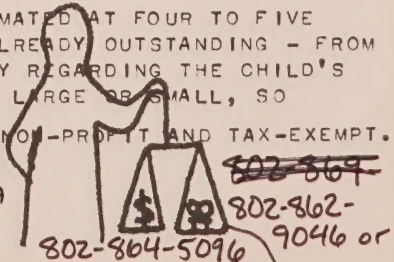
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JOYCE OR  
DONNA







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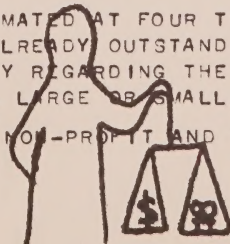
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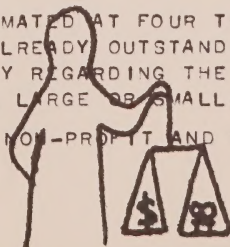
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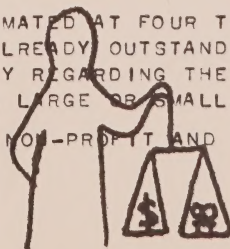
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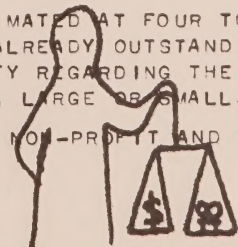
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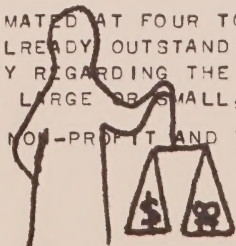
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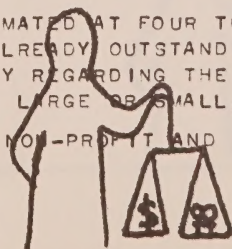
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## LESBIAN DEFENSE FUNDS

LESBIANS TODAY ARE LOOKING FOR SOME BASIC SURVIVAL SUPPORTS. BECAUSE OF OUR LESBIANISM, WE HAVE BEEN DENIED OUR JOBS, HOMES, ENTRANCE TO MANY TRADES AND PROFESSIONS, LOANS, AND EVEN OUR OWN CHILDREN. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN DENIED SUPPORT BY OUR FAMILIES, BY OLD FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS, BY THE ARMS OF SOCIETY IN GENERAL - LAWYERS, MEDIA, CLERGY, PSYCHIATRISTS, AND BY THOSE PEOPLE INFLUENCED BY THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDES PERPETUATED BY THOSE ARMS OF SOCIETY.

THE DISCRIMINATION LISTED ABOVE IS NO EXAGGERATION. THERE ARE SOME SPECIFIC LAWS AGAINST LESBIANISM (SEXUAL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN TWO WOMEN ARE ILLEGAL IN SEVERAL STATES, THOSE SAME ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY HETEROSEXUALS MAY BE LEGAL IN THOSE STATES; THE ARMED FORCES HAVE DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE ON THE BOOKS FOR LESBIANISM.) BUT MORE PERVERSIVE IS THE LACK OF LEGAL PROTECTION FOR LESBIANS, WHICH ALLOWS FOR LOTS OF VEILED DISCRIMINATION. GIVEN THE PRESENT JOB MARKET, AN EMPLOYER CAN ALWAYS FIND ANOTHER EXCUSE FOR A NON-HIRING OR A FIRING; A PROPERTY HOLDER CAN FIND ANOTHER REASON FOR AN EVICTION OR REFUSAL TO LEASE OR SELL, AND THE GOVERNING BODY CAN FIND OTHER REASONS TO DENY ENTRANCE TO THE UNION, TRADE, SCHOOL, OR PROFESSION. MANY TIMES GAY ACTIVISTS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO AMEND THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT TO END DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL PREFERENCE - TO NO AVAIL AS YET.

SOCIETY'S DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LESBIANS COMES FROM FEAR; IT IS A CASE OF GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT. ANYTHING NEW, DIFFERENT, AND NOT UNDERSTOOD IS THREATENING. BECAUSE HOMOSEXUALITY IN GENERAL HAS BEEN SUCH A TABOO TOPIC, ASSUMPTIONS AND FALSE INFORMATIONS ARE RAMPANT. LITTLE STUDY HAS BEEN DONE ON LESBIAN HISTORY, PROS AND CONS OF THE LIFESTYLE, OR ANY LESBIAN RELATED TOPIC, AND EVEN LESS OF THAT RESEARCH HAS NOT BEEN NEGATIVELY BIASED FROM ITS BEGINNINGS. SYMPATHETIC RESEARCHERS SHY AWAY FROM THE TOPIC LEST THEY BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST TOO, SO THAT MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DEALT WITH THE TOPIC HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO THE SAME BIASES AND FEARS AS THE REST OF THE POPULATION. LESBIANS ARE NOW WORKING TO CHANGE THE CLIMATE REGARDING LESBIANISM THROUGH EDUCATION, BY PROVIDING MORE REAL AND POSITIVE INFORMATION.

CUSTODY CASES INVOLVING OPENLY LESBIAN MOTHERS ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE COMMON. A FEW CASES ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN HANDED DOWN IN FAVOR OF THE MOTHER, BUT THE PROSPECTS ARE STILL VERY DIM, DEPENDANT ON THE GENERAL MORAL CLIMATE OF THE STATE AND TOWN, AND ON THE ATTITUDE OF A SPECIFIC JUDGE.

A LESBIAN MOTHER GOING TO COURT WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO FIND A SYMPATHETIC LAWYER, WHO IS SKILLED, INTERESTED, AND WILLING TO BE INVOLVED. SHE WILL FIND HERSELF WITH A SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLAR LEGAL BILL. PROBABLY SHE IS GETTING NO FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM A MAN. SHE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO WORK BECAUSE OF HER CHILDREN. EVEN IF SHE CAN, SHE IS HAMPERED BY LOW EARNING CAPACITY AS A WOMAN, AND BY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND LESBIANS.

BUT SHE PREPARES FOR COURT. SHE FINDS THAT SHE MUST HIRE SYMPATHETIC PSYCHIATRISTS TO ATTEST TO HER SANITY, THE SANITY OF HER CHILDREN, AND THAT OF HER CHILDREN'S FRIENDS. SHE HAS TO PROVE THINGS ABOUT HER QUALIFICATIONS AS A MOTHER ON WHICH A HETEROSEXUAL IS NEVER QUESTIONED. EVERY ASPECT OF HER LIFE IS UP FOR SCRUTINY, BY THE FATHER OR BY THE STATE.

SHE MAY GET A DECISION SIMILAR TO THAT OTHER LESBIANS HAVE RECEIVED: A DECISION THAT SHE MAY KEEP THE CHILD IF SHE IS NEVER IN THE PRESENCE OF HOMOSEXUALS WHEN THE CHILD IS ALSO PRESENT, IE. IF SHE STOPS HER LESBIAN LIFESTYLE.

SHE MAY WIN CUSTODY, IF SHE IS COURAGEOUS, WELL FUNDED, WELL SUPPORTED, AND LUCKY.

LESBIAN DEFENSE FUND HELPS LESBIANS IN LEGAL CONFRONTATIONS FOR THEIR/OUR CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS. WE FOCUS ON - BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO - CUSTODY CASES. WE CHIEFLY DO FUNDRAISING, THROUGH SOLICITATION OF DONATIONS, AND THROUGH SPONSORSHIP OF BENEFITS. WE ARE ALSO SETTING UP A REFERRAL RESOURCE - TO LAWYERS, SUPPORT PEOPLE AND AGENCIES, AND TO INFORMATION SOURCES CONCERNING LESBIAN CASES. WE INTEGRATE POSITIVE EDUCATION ABOUT LESBIANISM INTO OUR WORK.

WE ALLOCATE THE FUNDS WE RAISE TO LESBIANS WHO APPROACH US ABOUT THEIR CASES - DECISIONS BASED ON AVAILABILITY OF MONEY AND URGENCY OF THE CASE.

WE ARE OPEN TO INPUT IN THE FORM OF IDEAS, QUESTIONS, REQUESTS FOR HELP, MEMBERSHIP, LABOR (CAN YOU ORGANIZE A BENEFIT IN YOUR CITY, OR BE A CONTACT PERSON THERE?) AND DONATIONS. LESBIAN DEFENSE FUND EXISTS SOLEY ON DONATIONS. NO WORKERS ARE PAID. WE'RE NON-PROFIT AND TAX-EXEMPT.

TO GIVE HELP OR GET HELP, CALL OR WRITE:

L.D.F.  
P.O. BOX 4  
ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT 05452  
802-862-9046

"I LOVE MY DAUGHTER AND SHE LOVES ME. WE HAVE LIVED TOGETHER WITHOUT HER FATHER SINCE SHE WAS 1 YEAR OLD - AND NOW BECAUSE I'M A LESBIAN, HER FATHER IS TRYING TO TAKE HER AWAY FROM ME AGAINST HER WILL; IT ISN'T FAIR.  
A LESBIAN MOTHER

"DOES HETEROSEXUALITY RENDER A WOMAN UNFIT AS A MOTHER? OF COURSE NOT. DOES LESBIANISM? OF COURSE NOT, BUT THE COURT OFTEN RULES THAT IT DOES. THESE PREJUDICES NEED TO BE EXAMINED AND BROKEN DOWN NOW, BEFORE MORE WOMEN AND CHILDREN BECOME THEIR VICTIMS."

A FEMINIST LAWYER

